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Mission Statement
The Honors Program of The University of Tampa aims to 1) attract excellent students to the university and 2) to enhance their achievement by creating an intellectually stimulating environment, 3) fostering their critical thinking skills, 4) increasing their capacities as global citizens, and 5) developing their leadership abilities.

Features of the Program
Founded in 1982, the cornerstones of the Program include academic achievement, global perspective, critical thinking and leadership. To foster its aims, the UT Honors Program offers special courses centered around a theme each year, as well as Honors sections of select courses from the regular university curriculum. There are four themes, which are repeated every four years: “Roots and Contexts of Ideas,” “Revolutions,” “Conflicting Perspectives: the Clash of Ideas” and “The Cutting Edge of Academics.” The theme for the 2014-2015 academic year is: “Roots and Contexts of Ideas.”

The Honors Program also offers Pathways to Honors for new freshmen members; Honors Enrichment Tutorials; Honors Study Abroad Scholarships; the Honors Symposia series; conferences; field trips; special learning experiences at the University of Oxford in England and with the Washington Center in Washington, DC; themed, regular and study abroad courses taught by UT Honors faculty; and opportunities to write for and edit a research/critical essay journal Respondez!

The Honors Pledge
We, the students of the Honors Program at the University of Tampa, recognizing that learning isn't a means to an end, but it is an end in itself, pledge to follow a life of the mind, to devote ourselves fully to intellectual growth and to take responsibility for our own education.

We pledge to never stop pursuing the wonder-filled questions of the world, to never stop challenging the academic status quo and to never choose expediency over excellence.

We pledge to work with the faculty to establish an environment of academic integrity and mutual respect and to create and maintain an Honors community that fosters freedom of expression and discovery.

By choosing to become a part of this community we each promise to uphold the principles recognized in this statement.

Admissions Requirements
Students are automatically considered for the Honors Program when they are accepted for admission to the University and are offered invitations if they qualify. To meet eligibility for the program, freshmen should have a 3.5 GPA (unweighted) and an SAT score of 1200 (27 ACT). The cumulative GPA must be at least 3.4 (unweighted), and the SAT score must be at least 1150 (25 ACT) in all cases. Transfer students should have a 3.5 GPA or very strong recommendations. Students who did not qualify for admission to the Honors Program...
upon entry to the university may make formal application for admission at anytime in the freshman, sophomore or junior year if they have achieved a cumulative GPA at the university of 3.5 or above and submit a recommendation from a UT faculty member. Seniors are not eligible to enroll into Honors.

For the 2014-15 academic year, the faculty Honors Committee adopted an application process for all new/incoming Honors students. Students must formally apply to the program (application forms are available in the Honors Program office, Plant Hall 307, and at Bb. To be eligible to make application:

1. A freshman student must have successfully completed Pathways to Honors 101/102, with a grade of B or better in both HON 101 and HON 102, and must include a recommendation from at least one UT professor. If a student fails to complete HON 101 with a grade of B or better, but does complete HON 102 with a grade of A, AB or B, then an additional application requirement is required, namely a second recommendation, in letter form, from a professor who has taught the student during the spring semester. Approval of the application, in all instances, is up to the discretion of the Honors Program director, in consultation with the faculty Honors Committee when deemed appropriate.
2. A newly admitted transfer student must have successfully completed at least one Honors course or tutorial and must make formal application including a recommendation from a UT faculty member.
3. A continuing UT student who wishes to enroll in Honors must have a cumulative UT GPA of 3.5 and must make formal application including a recommendation from a UT faculty member.

Requirements for Maintaining “Good Standing” in Honors
Freshmen in the Honors Program are required to maintain a GPA of at least 3.25; beyond the freshman year, students must maintain a GPA of at least 3.50. Those who fail to maintain the requisite level of grades will be placed on probationary status for one semester. While on probationary status, students may continue to register for Honors courses and for Honors Enrichment Tutorials, but they are prohibited from applying for any Honors opportunities that involve monetary support. If they raise their grades to the required standard within the semester following probationary notice, they will return to good standing. Students who remain below the required level for more than one semester will be dismissed from the Honors Program. They may then reapply for admission to the program once they achieve a cumulative UT GPA of 3.5 or greater.

Students found responsible for an academic integrity violation will be dismissed from the Honors Program and will not be eligible to graduate with Honors Program Distinction.

Requirements for Graduation with “Honors Program Distinction”
To graduate with Honors Program Distinction from The University of Tampa, a UT Honors Program student must have a grade point average at the University of Tampa of at least 3.5 at the time of graduation and must have completed the required number of Honors Program courses or other Honors experiences for credit as indicated below. [Under exceptional circumstances a student denied graduation with “Honors Program Distinction” may appeal to the Faculty Honors Committee through the Honors Program director.]

Students Who Enter the Program as Freshmen: Pathways to Honors courses (two semesters of one credit each), and five additional Honors courses or special Honors experiences for credit (Honors Enrichment Tutorials, Honors Independent Studies, Honors Study Abroad credits, Oxford or Washington semesters) are required. It is recommended that during their freshman and sophomore years, students complete a minimum of two regular, semester-long Honors classes for at least three credits each and then fulfill the junior requirements.

Students Who Enter as Sophomores: Five Honors courses or special Honors experiences for credit (see above) are required. At least two of the Honors Program courses must be regular semester-long Honors courses completed for at least three credits each, in addition to the junior requirements.

Students Who Enter as Juniors: Three Honors courses or special Honors experiences for credit (see above) are required. At least one of the Honors Program courses must be a regular semester-long Honors course completed for at least three credits. The other two courses can be any two of the following:

- regular Honors courses
- Honors Enrichment Tutorials
• Honors independent study courses
• Honors Education Abroad courses
• Honors Oxford Semester courses
• Washington Center Internships/Seminars
• Honors Senior Thesis.

Particularly for students with heavy majors or those planning on graduate school, the junior portion of Honors is designed to lead the student toward graduate level research, with students being introduced to such research through the tutorial contract, continuing through research-oriented independent study, and culminating in a senior research project. A significant number of Honors undergraduates have made presentations at conferences or have been published as undergraduates. Students not intending to attend graduate school are enriched through closer contact, ability to pursue questions one-to-one, and greater understanding of professionalism in their field.

Note: In order to fulfill Honors Program requirements, all Honors courses must be taken for a grade and cannot be taken pass/fail.
Note: Students found responsible for an academic integrity violation will be dismissed from the Honors Program and will not be eligible to graduate with Honors Program Distinction.

Pathways to Honors
All entering Honors freshmen are required to take HON 101/HON 102: Pathways to Honors for a grade. Pathways to Honors is designed to acquaint students with the Honors Program, to develop leadership skills, to encourage experiential learning and to foster a commitment to community service. Focus is on active learning through outside-the-classroom experiences, such as community outreach, the Honors Council and the Honors Symposia series. HON 101 and HON 102 are taken for one credit hour each and do not count toward the five Honors course requirements for freshmen or sophomores.

Honors Courses
Each semester, the UT Honors faculty create and offer twenty or more courses exclusively to Honors students. Enrollment in Honors courses is typically limited to seventeen students per classroom. These courses are scholarly rigorous and span the full spectrum of the many fields of study available at the University of Tampa. Most all of these courses provide credit hours for UT’s Baccalaureate Experience. Course offerings and course descriptions are published each semester in the Honors Newsletters. Honors course offerings are available online at www.ut.edu, SpartanWeb and Honors Bb.

Honors Enrichment Tutorials
Honors Enrichment Tutorials offer upper level students in the Honors Program the opportunity to transform a regular class into an Honors class by creating a unique and individual class project and then working one-on-one with the professor in that class. Tutorials may only be contracted by juniors or seniors, or by students who have successfully completed three Honors courses. Only full-time faculty at the university may oversee Honors tutorials. Tutorials are typically contracted in 300- or 400-level classes. If a student wishes to create an enrichment tutorial for a 200-level class, the student must explain in writing to the program director the reason for this choice. The program director approves all tutorials and determines if Honors credit is to be awarded. The necessary forms for initiating an Honors tutorial are at Honors Bb or in the Honors Office, PH 307. Tutorials forms must be completed and filed in the Honors Program prior to the end of the third week of classes for the fall and spring semesters. Narrative evaluations must be received from instructors prior to the last day of classes.
Note: In order to fulfill Honors Program requirements, all Honors Enrichment Tutorials must be undertaken in courses taken for a grade. Honors Enrichment Tutorials will not be approved if they are undertaken in conjunction with any course that is taken pass/fail.

**Honors Semester Abroad at Oxford**

Honors Program juniors or seniors earning a GPA of at least 3.5 are eligible to compete for the Oxford Program. The students selected to enroll for a term at Oxford University in England earn 14 credit hours and Honors course credits while studying under the unique Oxford tutorial system, in which Oxford faculty teach students one-on-one. Six UT Honors Program students per year are selected to participate. The deadline is October 15 or the next business day for those wishing to attend Oxford in the subsequent spring term; the deadline is the Friday before Spring Break for those wishing to attend Oxford in the subsequent fall term. Applications are available at Honors Bb and in the Honors Office, Plant Hall 307. Students will be selected by the Faculty Honors Committee on the criteria listed below. [The Honors Program subsidizes the Oxford semester so that payment of your tuition to UT covers the Oxford tuition.]

**Criteria for Candidates Competing for Oxford Semester Abroad:**
The criteria used by the Faculty Committee on Honors are as follows:

- Junior or senior in the Honors Program, with a minimum UT cumulative GPA of 3.5.
- Record of prior involvement in the Honors Program.
- Quality and clarity of the written essay.
- Effective oral communication skills during the interview.
- Professional demeanor of the applicant.
- Demonstrated familiarity with the Oxford Study Abroad Programme [OSAP].
- Uniqueness of the tutorials to be undertaken (the experience at OSAP should to be one that can not be found at UT).
- Perceived aptitude for intense tutorial learning.
- Perceived commitment to scholarly development.

Note: Cumulative GPA is not a deciding factor in the selection process (all applicants must have a 3.5 or higher).

**Honors Semester Internship with the Washington Center**

Honors students in good standing are eligible for participation with The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars. The Washington Center is an independent, nonprofit organization serving hundreds of colleges and universities in the United States and other countries, providing internships for students in a wide range of majors. The largest program of its kind, TWC has 70 full-time staff and over 40,000 alumni, many of whom are in leadership positions in the public, private and nonprofit sectors in the United States and around the world. Students approved by the Honors Program director have the opportunity to work and learn in Washington, D.C. while earning Honors academic credit. For more information about TWC go to their website at www.twc.edu, visit Dr. Luter in Plant Hall 307, or check the information posted at Honors Bb. [The Honors Program subsidizes the TWC semester internship and academic seminars so that payment of your tuition to UT typically covers the TWC program fee for the term.]

**Honors Study Abroad Scholarships**
The Honors Study Abroad Scholarship is an award of up to $1000 given to deserving Honors students whose field of study will directly and significantly benefit from an Honors Study Abroad experience. Each year Honors faculty offer academically challenging study abroad experiences to Honors students. For the 2014-2015 academic year Honors study abroad opportunities are planned for Austria, Switzerland, Germany, the Czech
Republic, Portugal, Morocco, Costa Rica and Ghana in West Africa. Contact the Honors Program office, Plant Hall 307 for details. Applications for Honors Study Abroad Scholarships are available in the Honors Office, Plant Hall 307 or at Honors Bb. Applications and supporting materials are due in the Honors Program Office by Friday, November 15, 2014.

Honors Undergraduate Research Fellowships
The Honors Program sponsors up to eight Honors Undergraduate Research Fellows annually. Each student is awarded a fellowship of up to $1,000. These Research Fellows work under the mentorship of a faculty member, assisting with research and producing a research paper or project for presentation to the University community in April (and often to scholarly conferences as well). A list of faculty who express interest in being mentors for Honors Research Fellows (and their areas of research interest) is published throughout the year in the Honors Program Newsletters. Students should contact these or any full-time faculty with whom they would like to do a research fellowship. The application form for an Honors Research Fellowship award is on-line at Honors Bb or may be obtained in the Honors Office, Plant Hall 307. Applications are due in the Honors Program office by Friday, March 20, 2015.

National, Regional and State Honors Council Conferences
Honors students in good standing are eligible to attend conferences at the state, regional and national level. These conferences are sponsored by associations of Honors colleges known as Honors Councils. All conference-related expenses are paid by the Honors Program Office. Students must apply to attend. Application involves submitting an abstract to present scholarship and research at the conference, either as a podium, poster or panel presentation. Deadlines, dates and details can be found in the Honors Program Newsletters, at Honors Bb or in the Honors Program office, Plant Hall 307.

Harvard National Model United Nations Conference
The UT Honors Program is sponsoring Model United Nations activities for 2014-15 that will culminate in sending a delegation of the best-qualified participants to Harvard University, February 12 - 15, 2015, for the Harvard National Model UN. The UT Honors Program will cover the costs of registration, travel, and accommodations for the students who are selected for the UT Harvard delegation. These students, in turn, must accept the obligation to participate fully and to the best of their abilities in the Harvard National Model UN. Obtain guidelines and instructions for application at the start of the semester from the Honors Program office, Plant Hall 307. Enrollment into GWAH212: Decision Making in the UN-Honors, a second 7-weeks two credit hour Honors course, is mandatory for participation in HNMUN conference.

Honors Symposia Series
The Honors Program seeks to stimulate intellectual thought and discussion on campus and in the Tampa Bay community by sponsoring a variety of symposia every fall and spring semester. The symposia presenters include university faculty, guest experts and professionals and our own Honors students. The topics span disciplines and highlight current research and scholarship at our university, and within the greater academic community, both nationally and internationally. For the 2014-2015 academic year many of the symposia will fall under the year’s theme of Roots and Contexts of Ideas.

Symposia presentations are usually one hour in length and are scheduled in the late afternoons or early evenings on campus. All symposia are free and open to the public. For a detailed listing of the time, place, topics and presenters in the Honors Symposia series visit www.ut.edu, Honors Bb, or pick up the details on the special “Honors Symposia Series” bookmark in the Honors Study/Lounge, Plant Hall 310, or in the Honors Program office, Plant Hall 307. Honors symposia are also listed in the Honors Newsletter and at www.ut.edu.
Honors Floors in Residence Life Halls
Floors are set-aside specifically for Honors students in Vaughn Center, Austin Hall and Urso Hall in order to create a residence life experience that is conducive to study and learning. The area coordinators of these floors provide residence life experiences that are geared to Honors students’ needs. Contact the Director of Residence Life to request placement on one of the Honors floors.

Honors Blackboard (Bb)
You can go online to ut.blackboard.com and select Honors Program to see announcements and click on the Information tab to find newsletters, the Honors Program Handbook, instructions regarding Honors Program offerings and critical application forms.

Honors Staff, Contact Information and Room Locations

Honors Study/Lounge: Plant Hall 310
The Honors Study/Lounge has three computers, a printer, conference table, coffee maker, microwave oven and refrigerator. It is a great place to relax between classes or after classes and meet friends and colleagues in the Honors Program. The Honors Study/Lounge is where you can find information for upcoming activities, forms and announcements of interest to Honors students. There is a coded entry for access to the study/lounge. The code may be obtained in the Honors Program office, Plant Hall 307.

Honors Conference Room: Plant Hall 305
This room can be reserved and utilized for the Honors students and equipped with a computer that is networked to the printer in the Honors Lounge. Please see staff assistant to reserve this room.

Office of the Director:
Dr. Gary Luter: Plant Hall Room 307, phone 813-257-3803. See staff assistant for office hours. E-mail address: gluter@ut.edu or honors@ut.edu.

Office of the Associate Director:
Dr. Alisa Smith: Plant Hall Room 344, phone 813-258-7283. Office hours are posted on the door. E-mail address: alisa.smith@ut.edu or honors@ut.edu.

Office of the Staff Assistant:
Carla Sykes: Plant Hall Room 307, phone 813-257-3545. Email address: csykes@ut.edu or honors@ut.edu.

The Honors Council
The Honors Council represents all Honors Program students, helps the Director develop new aspects of the Program and assess Program strengths and areas for improvement, and initiates and oversees extracurricular activities for the Program. Each Honors Program class elects a representative for a one-year term, but all Honors Program students are eligible to participate. The meetings are planned for Tuesdays at 6:00 PM in Vaughn Center 219. (Location and meeting times may be subject to change, so please check with the program office). The Honors Council elects its own President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Student Government Representative annually in March. The current 2014-2015 president is Jimmy Uteg; Jimmy can be reached at jimmy.uteg@spartans.ut.edu. Jimmy and the other four officers constitute the Executive Board. The Committees of the Honors Council include Academic Affairs, Community Service, Fundraising, Public Relations and Social Committees.
Honors Program Publications

Honors Newsletter - published six times during the year, contains critical information for Honors students and Honors faculty. The Newsletter is sent by email and is also available at Honors Bb as well as www.ut.edu.

Honors Alumni Newsletter - published by the Honors Alumni Association [not currently published].

Respondez! - is a non-fiction literary journal published annually in the spring semester by Honors Program students to showcase excellent Honors research papers, critical analyses, personal essays, supported opinion pieces, or other non-fiction works. The title Respondez! comes from the Walt Whitman poem and is published in the front of every edition of the journal. For instructions regarding submissions and acceptance of articles for the journal, visit Honors Bb. The coeditors-in-chief for the 2014-2015 edition of Respondez! are Selene SanFelice and Veronica (Ronni) Mercier. Current and past editions of Respondez! are available in the Honors Study/Lounge in Plant Hall 310. Take a look!

[NOTE: Changes may be made to this handbook throughout the academic year. Check Honors Bb for announcements of any changes to the handbook. Updated copies of the handbook can be found at www.ut.edu].